State of New Hampshire Electricians' Board Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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In the Matter of Mathias Seppala JUN 17 2015

STATE OF NH JOINT BOARD

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In order to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings and to promote the best interests of the public, the New Hampshire Electricians' Board (hereinafter "Board") and Mathias Seppala (hereinafter "Respondent"), an apprentice registered by the Board, do hereby stipulate and agree to resolve certain allegations of professional misconduct now pending before the Board according to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Pursuant to RSA 319-C:6-a, RSA 319-C:12, 319-C:12-b, and the Board of Electrician's Practice and Procedural Rules the Board has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by electricians. Pursuant to RSA 319-C:12 and Elec 207.07 the Board may, at any time, dispose of such allegations by settlement and without commencing a disciplinary hearing.
- 2. The Board first granted Respondent an ID card to practice electrical installation in the State of New Hampshire as an apprentice on August 20, 2010. Respondent currently holds apprentice ID number 14240A.
- 3. In response to a complaint #15-07 filed with the Board on March 6, 2015, from Jaffrey Fire Chief, David Chamberlain, and it was determined that the Respondent, performed electrical installations on his own account at 85 Stratton Rd, Jaffrey, New Hampshire on or about February 12, 2015. This is in violation of the provisions of RSA 319-C and the Board of Electrician's Practice and Procedural Rules. In response to this, State Electrical Inspector Denis Laurendeau conducted an investigation and obtained information from various sources pertaining to Respondent's violation of the provisions of RSA 319-C and the Board of Electrician's Practice and Procedural Rules.
- 4 The investigation revealed and Respondent freely admits to the following facts:

The Respondent performed electrical installations at 85 Stratton Rd, Jaffrey, New Hampshire on or about February 12, 2015. This is in violation of the provisions of RSA 319-C and the Board of Electrician's Practice and Procedural Rules. The Board finds that Respondent committed the acts as described above and concludes that, by engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated RSA 319-C:12(II)(c), RSA 319-C:15(I)(a)(d) and Elec 405.01(a)(1).

- 5. Respondent acknowledges that this conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent's ID card to practice as an electrician in the State of New Hampshire and represents that he has taken steps to avoid any repetition of such conduct.
- 6. There is no current record of a similar violation on file at the Board's office.
- 7. Respondent is willing to accept that this is a first offense as described in Elec 405.03(c)(1). This shall be considered as a disciplinary action until June 23, 2022, as described in Elec 405.03(i).
- 8. Respondent consents to the Board imposing the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 319-C:12 and Elec 405.03:
 - A. Respondent is **reprimanded**.
 - B. Respondent will be allowed to sit for his journeyman electrician's exam once he has completed the apprenticeship requirements. His apprentice ID card will expire August 31, 2015 and will not be renewed.
 - C. When the Respondent has passed the journeyman's exam and when the journeyman license is issued it will be immediately suspended for one year and his apprentice ID card will be reinstated, at no additional fee, to allow him to work.
 - D. At the end of the one year suspension the Respondent will petition the Board to reinstate his journeyman license.
 - E. The Board may consider Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions herein in any subsequent proceeding before the Board regarding Respondent's license.

- 9. Respondent's breach of any terms or conditions of this *Settlement Agreement* shall constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to RSA 319-C:12, and a separate and sufficient basis for further disciplinary action by the Board.
- 10. Except as provided herein, this *Settlement Agreement* shall bar the commencement of further disciplinary action by the Board based upon the misconduct described above. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Agreement as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any further misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.
- 11. This Settlement Agreement shall become a permanent part of Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.
- 12. Respondent voluntarily enters into and signs this Settlement Agreement and states that no promises or representations have been made to him other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.
- 13. The Board agrees that in return for Respondent executing this *Settlement Agreement*, the Board will not proceed with the formal adjudicatory process based upon the facts described herein.
- 14. Respondent understands that his action in entering into this *Settlement Agreement* is a final act and not subject to reconsideration or judicial review or appeal.
- 15. Respondent has had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of his choosing in connection with his decision to enter into this Settlement Agreement.
- 16. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

 If the Board rejects any portion, the entire Settlement Agreement shall be null and void. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the Board during its review of this agreement have prejudiced his right to a fair and impartial hearing in the future if this Settlement Agreement is not accepted by the Board.

- 17. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time he signs this Settlement Agreement.
- 18. Respondent certifies that he has read this *Settlement Agreement*. Respondent understands that he has the right to a formal adjudicatory hearing concerning this matter and that at said hearing he would possess the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to present evidence, to testify on his own behalf, to contest the allegations, to present oral argument, and to appeal to the Building Code Review Board, pursuant to RSA 155-A:11-a. Further, Respondent fully understands the nature, qualities and dimensions of these rights. Respondent understands that by signing this *Settlement Agreement*, he waives these rights as they pertain to the misconduct described herein.
- 19. This agreement shall take effect as an *Order of the Board* on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the Board.

FOR RESPONDENT

Date: 6/17/15

Mathies Sepala

Respondent

FOR THE BOARD

This proceeding is hereby terminated in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above.

Date: $\frac{U/23/15}{Signature}$

Drint or Type Name)

(Print of Type Name)

Authorized Representative of the New Hampshire Electrician's Board